

11-10-1907

Letter from Ruby Willis, Wellesley, Massachusetts,  
to Dr. and Mrs. William H. Willis, Reading,  
Massachusetts, 1907 November 10

Ruby Willis

Wellesley College Archives

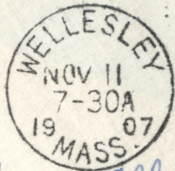
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Mr. & Mrs. William H. Willis,  
Reading,  
Massachusetts.



Sunday,  
Nov. 10, 1907.

My dear ones at home, —

Hasn't this been a perfectly beastly day! I was so disappointed this morning when Miss Dennison told me that papa had telephoned that he would come out to-day. I telephoned to you soon after breakfast, about quarter-of-nine, as J. has probably told you, but apparently no one in the house was awake, so he said.



I hardly thought you would come when it was so rainy, — in fact, though I wanted to see you dreadfully, I don't think we could have had a very good time, for there is nothing to do when it rains. Besides, I had asked Miss Daph to dinner; she didn't come, but didn't telephone either until just before one o'clock. With all these things on my mind, and the necessity of getting down to the village for my Bible-class before quarter of ten, you can imagine I was a little bit flurried & hurried.



Can't you come out next Sunday, papa dear? I do hope you can, for it seems years since I've seen you. And about mamma, I do want her to come out while it is still comparatively warm. Can't she come Wednesday? Yesterday was a perfect day and so was the day before. It's a shame we couldn't have a pleasant Sunday, I think. To-day we've had five Faculty guests at dinner, — three of them at our table. You know the Association of Collegiate Alumnae met in Boston this last week, and one of the women came east for that. She was a Greek faculty here years ago. She is staying here over Sunday, so Miss Chapin invited all these other people, who used to know her, to dinner. They were really very entertaining, luckily.

I do wish you could have seen College Hall Friday; ~~that~~ probably you read in the papers that that Alumnae Ass. was entertained here on Friday. Such a wellness I never saw in College Hall! The Browning Room which is usually so dark & dismal was actually pretty, with heaps of huge yellow chrysanthemums, in pots &





vases all over the room. Miss Hazard, Miss Pendleton, & Mrs. Durant received in this room. Miss Hazard was magnificent in a black & white lace creation, Miss Pendleton, too sweet for anything in a wonderful grey dress with even lace yoke; her gown had a wide band of black velvet around the very bottom of it, - something new in style, I think. Before "the party" began, I met Miss Pendleton in the corridor, and, to my great joy, she

spoke to me, all gowned as she was.  
All the professors & associate professors,  
instructors too, were all gowned out  
as beautifully as possible, so that  
College Hall was quite like a flower  
garden. In the corridor leading to  
the south porch there were two tables  
beautifully laid with silver & flowers &  
candelabra, also in the Faculty  
Parlor were long tables laid; then  
waiters were rushing around everywhere.  
There were beautiful flowers & potted  
plants all over the first & second  
floors, on the landing & all around.  
The guests arrived in Wellesley about



2:30 I think, & from then until nearly four they were driven about the campus with seniors to tell them what the buildings were & to show them over the Art Building, the Observatory etc. I think they must have collected all the barges from all the surrounding towns, for the "Belle of Newton" was here beside various other "Belles". About four the gang arrived at College Hall, where they were received & given "cats". Then the favored few, the Presidents of the various colleges and the Deans, and some of our faculty, went to Miss Hazard's for a swell supper. Miss Chapin went to it all, so in that way I had a full account. I assure you it was an exciting occasion for us; we leaned over the second-floor railing like regular kids.

It was lucky you didn't plan to come out Wednesday, wasn't it, mamma? Wednesday & Thursday were days as bad as this one has been. I do hope to-morrow will be pleasant, but even if it is, I don't know whether we can have Field-Day, for the ground will be so wet & slippery.





do you remember, papa, that I tried to ask you over the telephone about the Wellesley Bank paying only gold? Well, why I asked, is that there has been a good deal of talk here about the financial trouble, - very naturally, I think, for there are girls from all parts of the country, of course. This last week the Wellesley bank has been paying only gold, & refusing to cash checks on other banks - that is up to about Friday. I really had

little hope of getting my check cashed,  
but they finally did cash it to my joy.

Did you see in the papers about the  
Providence bank that has gone to pieces  
failed entirely? Well, Hope Bates (a  
girl in my class) father was treasurer  
and had most of his money <sup>in</sup> it, and  
he lost everything. She is going to  
stay until Mid-years, because her  
board & tuition are paid till then, but  
then she will have to go home unless  
something comes up. Isn't that dreadful?  
Then there are several freshmen who  
positively cannot get any money, - that  
is their parents can't get it from the



banks to send to them. Another girl who has no father or mother & manages her own money-affairs mostly, had a letter from her New York lawyer, telling her that if she had any money in Boston banks, to get out at least enough to last her for two months, because the crash would come in Boston in about two weeks. That was rather startling, don't you think? So you can see why I asked you how you thought money matters were.

Well, I think I will bring this lengthy epistle to a close. Please ask Margery to write & tell me how she is getting on in school. With heaps of love to all, from

Ruby.